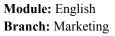
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Lecture 10: The present perfect

1- Introduction

The present perfect tells us about the past and the present.

The aircraft has landed means that the aircraft is on the ground now.

2 Form

The present perfect is the present tense of **have** + a past participle.

I/you/we/they have washed OR I/you/we/they've washed

he/she/it has washed OR he/she/it's washed

NEGATIVE QUESTION

I/you/we/they haven't	have I/you/we/they
washed	washed?
he/she/it hasn't washed	has he/she/it washed?

Regular past participles end in ed, e.g. washed, landed, finished. We've washed the dishes. Have you opened your letter? The aircraft has landed safely. How many points has Matthew scored? The students haven't finished their exams.

3 Irregular forms

Some participles are irregular.

I've made a shopping list. We've sold our car. I've thought about it a lot. Have you written the letter? She hasn't drunk her coffee. For There is a present perfect of be and of have.

The weather has been awful I've had a lovely time, thank you.

4 Use

When we use the present perfect, we see things as happening in the past but having a result in the present.

We've washed the dishes. (They're clean now.) The aircraft has landed. (It's on the ground now.)

We've eaten all the eggs. (There aren't any left.) They've learnt the words. (They know the words.)

You've broken this watch. (It isn't working.)

5- Just, already and yet

We can use the present perfect with just, already and yet.

Just means 'a short time ago'. Vicky heard about the concert not long ago. **Already** means 'sooner than expected'. They sold the tickets very quickly. We use **yet** when we are expecting something to happen. Vicky expects that Rachel will buy a ticket.

Just and **already** come before the past participle (heard, sold). Yet comes at the end of a question or a negative sentence.

Here are some more examples.

We've just come back from our holiday.

I've just had an idea.

It isn't a very good party. Most people have already gone home.

My brother has already crashed his new car.

It's eleven o'clock and you haven't finished breakfast yet.

Has your course started yet?

6- For and since

We can use the present perfect with for and since.

Vicky has only had that camera for three days. Those people have been at the hotel since Friday.

I've felt really tired for a whole week now.

We've lived in Oxford since 1992. NOT We live-here-sinee-1992. Here something began in the past and has lasted up to the present time.

We use **for** to say how long this period is **{for** three days}. We use **since** to say when the period began **(since** Friday).

We use **how long** in questions.

How long has Vicky **had** that camera? ~ Since Thursday, I think.

How long have Trevor and Laura **been** married? ~ Oh, for about three years.

We can also use the present perfect with **for** and **since** when something has stopped happening. / **haven't seen** Rachel **for** ages. She **hasn't visited us since July.**